

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 FEA-02 INT-08 PM-07 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 085073

R 290855Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0828

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT AND DOHA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC

SUBJ: TRAVEL THROUGH EMIRATES BY AMBASSADOR

1. GRIFFIN AND I MADE TWO-DAY TOUR OF SHAIKHDOMS TO PAY MY INITIAL CALLS ON RULERS. WE FOUND FOUR OF SIX IN PLACE, INCLUDING THE THREE MAJOR ONES. RASHID OF DUBAI, SULTAN OF SHARJAH AND SAQR OF RAS AL KHAIMAH. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO CALL ON SHAIKH MUHAMMAD OF FUJAIRA WHO WAS AT HOUSE HE HAS IN DUBAI. TRIUMPHAL ARRIVAL OF FIRST RESIDENT AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO UAE WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY MARRED BY FACT THAT EMBASSY SEDAN (AND ITS ONLY PRESENTABLE VEHICLE) IS AGAIN OUT OF ORDER AND WE HAD TO MAKE TRIP IN AUTOMOBILE BORROWED FROM SHAIKH RASHID.

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2. WE RECEIVED WARM WELCOME FROM ALL CONCERNED. SHAIKH SAQR

OF RAS AL KHAIMAH PARTICULARLY EXTENDED HIMSELF WITH A TRADITIONAL SHEEP BANQUET TO WHICH, AS IT SEEMED, ALMOST EVERYBODY IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH WAS INVITED. ALL RULERS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON U.S. DECISION TO UPGRADE ITS PRESENCE IN UAE, AND BOTH RASHID OF DUBAI AND SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH (LATTER WITH TWINKLE IN HIS EYE) FOLLOWED THIS UP BY URGING THAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE OPENING OF CONSULATES IN THEIR EMIRATES. TO RASHID, WHO SEEMED SERIOUS, WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE INDEED GIVING THOUGHT TO POSSIBILITY OF OPENING OFFICE IN DUBAI.

3. RULERS TALKED MAINLY ABOUT THEIR PROJECTS AND HOPES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN SHAIKHDOMS, WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EVEN FEDERATION AFFAIRS MORE DISTANT CONCERNS. IN RASHID'S OFFICE THERE WERE ARCHITECTURAL MODELS OF PROJECTS TO FURTHER ADORN HIS PROSPEROUS CITY-STATE--PORT EXPANSION, AN EXPORT REFINERY, A TRADE CENTER. OUR TOUR OF DUBAI'S DEEP WATER PORT REVEALED EVERY ONE OF ITS SEVENTEEN BERTHS OCCUPIED WITH FREIGHTERS DISCHARGING CARGO. IN SHARJAH SHAIKH SULTAN, WITH HELP OF U.S. CONSULTING FIRM, IS PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN SO AS TO SPEND THE LIMITED OIL REVENUES HE WILL SHORTLY BEGIN TO GET AS RATIONALLY AS POSSIBLE. (WE HEARD FROM CRESCENT OIL COMPANY THAT PRODUCTION IS NOT LIKELY TO EXCEED 80,000 BBL/DAY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS, AND EVEN THIS LIMITED REVENUE WILL HAVE TO BE SHARED WITH IRAN, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT WITH UMM AL QAIWAIN.) SHAIKH SAQR ALSO ENERGETICALLY THINKING OF WAYS TO DEVELOP RAS AL-KHAIMAH, BUT HE IS FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF MONEY, AND FROM HIS OWN STATEMENT HE IS NOT GETTING MUCH IN THE WAY OF HANDOUTS FROM SHAIKH ZAYID THESE DAYS. HE IS BANKING ON DISCOVERY OF OIL.

4. IN SPITE OF FACT THESE INITIAL CALLS CONSISTED MAINLY OF GET-ACQUAINTED AMENITIES, I WAS INTERYDFHG THAT BOTH OF

QASIMI SHAIKHS TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH ZAYID'S MANAGEMENT OF FEDERATION. THRUST OF CRITICISM WAS THAT ZAYID WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH ON FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT AND NOT ENOUGH WITHIN HIS OWN FEDERATION. BOTH EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER ZAYID'S TACTIC OF DECEIVING POPULACE BY ANNOUNCING PUBLICLY THAT FEDERAL BUDGET DH 1.6 BILL (\$408 MILL) WHEN IT ACTUALLY ONLY

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ABOUT HALF THAT AMOUNT WILL BE SPENT IN 1974. THERE SEEMS LITTLE CONFIDENCE THAT FEDERATION WILL SOON BECOME INSTRUMENT FOR FAIR OR RATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND ONE HAS IMPRESSION OF SHAIKHS PRETTY MUCH GOING THEIR OWN WAY, WITH MUCH OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN STORE FOR THIS STRETCH OF THE GULF.

5. HOWEVER, ON THIS TRIP WE SENSED NO SERIOUS DISAFFECTION

WITH FEDERATION AS POLITICAL PRINCIPLE. EVEN SAQR'S ATTITUDE
SEEMED TO BE THAT FEDERATION WAS POLITICAL FACT OF LIFE, AND
HE WOULD LIVE WITH IT.
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